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To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 6:13pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello-

I would like to comment on the proposed settlement of the Microsoft Antitrust suit.

It stinks. Most prosecutors pride themselves on getting a more stringent penalty for those who are convicted as a result of their efforts. The DOJ appears to have broken with that tradition. Some articles stated that the DOJ's offer to Microsoft was less of a penalty than what Microsoft themselves were offering before they were found guilty.

This decision weighs very heavily on the future of the computing industry and innovation. Microsoft continues to be a baleful force to crush innovative new companies and products. Venture capitalists hesitate to fund software startup companies due to the looming threat of Microsoft's unfair competition. The settlement as it stands will serve to strengthen the entrenched, non-innovating, but highly profitable Microsoft corporation, at the expense of consumers and prospective innovators.

I would suggest that a minimal punishment for the crimes Microsoft has been found guilty of would include a statement of culpability, and plausibly contrite statements by the directors of the company. If such statements are not forthcoming, the directors of the company should be forbidden from running the daily operations of the company.

Thanks,
Matt Colgan